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ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY MEETING OF THE SOCIETY.

Held on the 18th May, 1863.

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR H. C. RAWLINSON,
K.C.B., F.R.S., &c., &c.,

IN THE CHAIR.

THE following Report of the Council was read by the Secretary:—

The Council is happy to be able to commence its Report, by notifying to the Society, that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who has just been admitted a Member of the Royal Asiatic Society by acclamation, has been further graciously pleased to accept of the office of Vice-Patron, which had remained vacant since the death of his illustrious father. The Council sincerely congratulates the Society on this auspicious event.

The Council have further to report, that during the past year, nothing more has transpired with respect to the proposed amalgamation of the Libraries of the East India Office with that of the Society, nor in regard to accommodation being afforded us in any public building, whereby our heavy outlay in rent, taxes, &c., might be saved.

The Society's Committee of Agriculture and Commerce, with the assistance of its Honorary Secretary, J. C. Marshman, Esq., has continued to hold meetings, and to consider the subjects of papers laid before it. Several of these have appeared in the Society's Journal, and others are intended for speedy publication. The amount of interest which it was hoped would be taken by certain classes in the pro-

ceedings of the Committee, has not been fully realized. Still, though the Committee will not, for the present, have occasion to call on the Society for any further pecuniary assistance, it will meet from time to time, to consider such questions of interest as may arise, and will communicate to the Society such papers of importance as may be laid before it.

Every effort has been made by the Council to ensure the regular quarterly issue of the Society's Journal. Unavoidable difficulties have, however, caused some delay in the appearance of the second part of the current volume, which has just been published. A greater amount of matter, also, than was at first anticipated, having, in consequence of his successful decipherments, accumulated in the hands of the accomplished author of the article on Bactrian Inscriptions, whereby the pages of the third part have been considerably encroached upon, it has been resolved to bring out the remainder of the volume in a double part, which will accordingly appear in July.

The attention of the Council has been particularly drawn to the expense attending the publication of the Journal. This has been found to press on our means, not only with severity from the largeness of the outlay annually incurred, but also with inconvenience, from its fluctuating character. Various propositions have from time to time been considered, with a view to regulating this expenditure, and reducing it within more moderate limits. Ultimately, the Council has decided upon contracting with an eminent London firm, Messrs. Trübner and Co., of Paternoster Row, for the publication of the Journal at a fixed sum per volume, exclusive solely of the charges for plates, woodcuts, maps, table-work, the use of very rare types, and alterations of, or additions to, original matter, when once in proof.

It is believed that this arrangement will be of some benefit to the Society as an actual measure of economy, while it is held for certain, that much greater publicity will be given to the Society's Proceedings among the Orientalists of the Continent, through the many foreign correspondents of Messrs. Trübner and Co., and that the reputation of our body will thus be proportionally increased.

It is proposed, under the new arrangement, to publish, as now, a volume of the Journal annually, divided into two, three, or four parts, at the discretion of the Council.

It may not be useless to call the attention of our Members to one of the charges, which, as above stated, are not included in the fixed contract with our publishers, viz., those arising out of alterations or additions in articles contributed to our Journal, after the same have been set up in type. The cost of such alterations or additions is sometimes very

considerable; and Members who favour us with papers, will at once perceive that this is an item of expense, in respect to which they can, in preparing their manuscripts, importantly benefit the funds of the Society.

At our last anniversary the circumstance was stated, that a collection of articles of various descriptions, natural and manufactured, had been sent by the Mysore Government to the International Exhibition, at the close of which they were to be presented to our Society. These articles have, accordingly, since been received, and are now added to our Museum.

The Secretary of State for India has kindly presented to our Library a number of valuable books, which we did not before possess, and of which duplicates existed in the Library of the East India Office; also the fourth volume of the "Rig Veda Sanhitá," edited by Professor Max Müller.

J. Muir, Esq., has presented the fourth volume of his "Sanskrit Texts," and Professor Goldstücker, the fifth part of his "Sanskrit Dictionary."

The Council has authorised the presentation of copies of our Journal to the Geological Museum of Calcutta, to the United Service Institution of Western India, and to the Library of the College of Civil Engineering at Roorkee.

The two copper plates mentioned in last year's Report as having been presented to the Society by A. A. Roberts, Esq., have proved to be fragments of one sole plate; and in the hands of Professor Dowson (aided by the suggestions of E. Norris and E. Thomas, Esqrs.), the inscription on them has not only been deciphered, but has proved the means of enabling several other relics from the Punjab to be satisfactorily translated, and has also furnished a key to the system of arithmetical notation used in that class of inscriptions.

The Council regrets to observe somewhat of a falling off in the number of our Members during the past year, the losses by death or retirement having rather exceeded the accession of new Members. And of these latter, a large proportion being non-resident, the pecuniary loss is even greater than the mere numerical diminution might indicate. The account is as follows:—

Elections.—*Resident Members*, six; *Non-resident*, ten. Total 16.

Deaths: Members who had compounded for their subscriptions, two; *Original*, one; *Resident*, three; *Non-Resident*, two. Total 8.

Retirements: *Resident*, fifteen; *Non-Resident*, two. Total 17.

Total loss.—*Compounded*, two; *Original*, one; *Resident*,

eighteen; *Non-Resident*, four. Making altogether, 25 Members.*

In money value these figures represent a yearly addition to our funds of only twenty-eight guineas, against a diminution of sixty guineas; and this again makes, as the general result, a loss of thirty-two guineas.†

It is computed that this year our income, with the aid of certain exceptional receipts, will quite cover our expenses. And, as the sum voted for the purposes of the Committee of Agriculture and Commerce has now been drawn, while there appears sufficient reason to anticipate that the new arrangement for the publication of the Journal will effect a saving on that head, it may be hoped that next year also our receipts will quite balance our expenditure.

Proceeding now to the notice of those of our deceased Members, respecting whom some little account has been found accessible, we have first to mention the late Henry, third Marquis of Lansdowne, K.G., P.C., who was one of the Original Members of this Society. His Lordship served on the Council for a short period from 1843, and the calls of business on his time was the sole preventive to his acceding to the wish of the Council to put him in nomination for election as

* *Elected.—Resident*: His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales; Rev. S. Beale; Hermann Bicknell, Esq.; S. E. B. Pusey, Esq.; Joseph Constantine, Esq.; Rev. Dr. E. Spooner. *Non-Residents*: Rajah V. L. P. N. Conjeveram; G. L. N. Chetty, Esq.; S. D. Nazinjung Bahadoor, Esq.; Dr. Bhau-Daji, G.G.M.C.; A. M. Dowleans, Esq.; Lieutenant S. B. Miles; M. Coomurasamy; W. Dickson, Esq.; Capt. M. W. Carr; Henry P. Le Mesurier, Esq.

Retirements.—Resident: W. A. Shaw, Esq.; Charles Gubbins, Esq.; T. Robinson, Esq.; Sir John Wedderburn; James Waddell, Esq.; Sir H. C. Montgomery; Edward Hamilton, Esq.; T. S. Gladstone, Esq.; Murray Gladstone, Esq.; Rev. T. Preston; A. B. Hill, Esq.; J. Jackson, Esq.; Colonel W. H. Sykes; W. P. Adam; Rev. Geo. Small. *Non-Resident*: Cotton Mather, Esq.; Captain H. G. Raverty.

Deaths.—Resident: Lieutenant-Colonel C. Thoresby; Walter Ewer, Esq.; Marquis of Lansdowne; Lieutenant-General Sir James Outram; Geo. Forbes, Esq. *Non-Resident*: T. A. Compton, Esq.; Lieutenant-General Cullen; Mirza Ja'fer Khan.

+ 15 Retirements at three guineas,	47	5	0	
2 do. at one guinea	2	2	0	
		49	7	0
3 Deaths at three guineas	9	9	0	
1 do. at two guineas	2	2	0	
2 do. at one guinea	2	2	0	
		13	13	0
Total loss by deaths and retirements			63 0 0	
6 Elections at three guineas	18	18	0	
10 do. at one guinea	10	10	0	
		29	8	0
Total money loss			33 12 0	

President. He was born on the 2nd of July, 1780, and was in his eighty-third year when a slight accident became the proximate cause of his death on the last day of January, 1863, he having succeeded to the Marquisate on the death of his elder brother in 1809. His Lordship's public life is too well known to need any comment here. Suffice it to say that he was beloved by all who knew him, and that he was ever noted as a generous patron of the arts and of literature, a promoter of education, and a liberal-minded man in every respect.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR JAMES OUTRAM, BART., G.C.B., K.S.I., born in 1805, first went to India in 1819, and was shortly afterwards appointed a Lieutenant in the 23rd Regiment of Bombay Native Infantry. Serving with this he first achieved distinction by making, with two hundred men of the regiment, a forced march of thirty-five miles, attacking and capturing the fastness of an insurgent leader, who had hoisted the standard of the Peishwa, in a hill fortress in Candesh. The eye of Mountstuart Elphinstone, then Governor of Bombay, recognized the merit of the young officer. Promotion from regimental service to a civil mission followed; and from 1828 to 1835, we find Outram employed, first against, and then over, the wild and lawless Bheels of Candesh, ever giving fresh proof of the possession of great qualities, not only as a soldier, but also as a ruler of men. From 1835 to 1838, he was employed in establishing order in the Mahee Kanta, a province of Guzerat.

On the breaking out of the war in Afghanistan in 1838, Outram, as many others, laid down his civil appointment, and was made an honorary Aide-de-Camp on the staff of General Sir John Keane, who was then commanding the Bombay division of the army sent against Dost Muhammed Khan. By the greatest activity, Outram nearly succeeded in hunting down this celebrated chief; but he generously refused to effect the capture of the fugitive when a traitor offered him the means.

Outram afterwards joined the expedition of Sir T. Willshire against Khelat in Beluchistan. After the capture of that stronghold, he volunteered to carry the General's dispatches to Bombay through the enemy's country; and this service he performed by disguising himself as a holy man, and travelling, in one week, a distance of three hundred and sixty miles to Kurrachee, whence he proceeded by ship. For these various proofs of zeal and ability he was gazetted a Major in the army, and was soon after named Political Agent in Lower Sind. Here, uniting, as before, vigour in action with sympathy and kindness whenever he could create the opportunity, he soon gained the confidence of the Hyderabad

Ameers, as he did also that of Nusser Khan, the youthful successor to the throne of Khelat, when afterwards summoned to the post of Upper Sind.

During the disasters of the army in Afghanistan, in 1841-2, Outram was firm in advising that the foe should be chastised ; and he rendered most eminent service by throwing into Kandahar, at that critical juncture, troops, stores, ammunition, and money.

Outram was at Hyderabad in Lower Sind, when General Sir C. Napier advanced on that place to coerce the Ameers into the adoption of a new line of policy. Notwithstanding the entreaties of the Ameers, and their declarations that they would be powerless to control the populace, Outram remained at his post. His defence of the Residency, when at length assailed by the Beluchis of the place, has been called one of the brightest records on the page of Indian history. General Sir C. Napier had before this styled Outram the Bayard of India ; but the policy now adopted in Sind, and the series of operations which thence ensued, brought on between these two great men a controversy which has been universally regretted. But Outram stedfastly adhered to his principle of dealing kindly and justly to the inhabitants of our Indian empire—principles on which he acted alike while Commissioner in Sind and while in the Mahratta country as Resident at Sattara, to which latter post he was appointed in 1845. He had previously visited England on furlough, and after his return to India had again adorned his name by a series of worthy exploits in Kolapoor and Sawuntwaree against the local insurgents.

In 1847, Sir George Clerk appointed him Resident at Baroda—the highest post in the gift of the Governor of Bombay. Removed from thence by Sir George's successor, Outram again visited England, and on his return to India was appointed to Aden.

When Lord Dalhousie, in 1855, resolved on the annexation of Oude, Outram was selected to carry out the measure, which he did with all the consideration in his power. His health then failing he came to England in 1856 ; but the war with Persia soon caused his services to be again required, and he was appointed to command the expedition to Bushire. Completely successful, he soon forced the Court of Teheran to sue for peace, and so to set him free to fly to the aid of his countrymen imperilled in India itself by the outbreak of the Sepoy Mutiny. Having been appointed Chief Commissioner of Oude, he marched to Cawnpore, united his corps to that under the heroic Havelock, and then proceeded to the first relief of the small garrison of Lucknow, beleaguered in that place by hosts of rebels and mutineers. In this advance he

most generously put his Commissionership in abeyance, and volunteered to serve under Havelock as a subordinate. The devoted gallantry displayed by the garrison of Lucknow, both before and after Outram and Havelock had joined them, is too well known to need more than a passing allusion here. Afterwards, on the first advance of Sir Colin Campbell, his relief of the garrison, and his subsequent retreat to Cawnpore, Outram was left in charge of the post of the Alumbagh, which he not only defended for three months against immensely superior numbers of assailants, but from whence he succeeded in implanting in the minds of the great landed chiefs of the province the idea that the power of England must prevail. In the final attack on Lucknow, Outram had command of the force detached to the other side of the river, crossing it finally into the town by the Iron Bridge. He was then installed as Chief Commissioner of the province, and did much, by his conciliatory policy, to facilitate its ultimate pacification. Returning to Calcutta, he took his seat as a member of the Supreme Council, and there displayed his usual energy, tact, and devotion. The climate, however, proved too much for his already impaired health. He left India for the last time in 1860, and spent the winter of 1861-2 in Egypt, where he seemed to have somewhat recovered, and came to England for a short time last summer. Under medical advice, however, he again left for a milder climate, and repaired to Pau, residing there for several months. The change was unavailing, and his death occurred there on the 11th of March, 1863, when he was but fifty-eight years of age. In recognition of his splendid character and services, his remains were honoured with a public funeral in Westminster Abbey, and it is hoped that the memorial statue which Outram's friends have voted him, and which has recently been executed by Mr. Noble, may be allotted a place in Trafalgar Square, where it will form a striking and not inappropriate pendant to that of his great rival, the late General Sir Charles Napier.

WALTER EWER, Esq., was the son of a gentleman who had been for some time Governor of the then British settlement of Bencoolen in the island of Sumatra. Having been educated at a private seminary, he proceeded to India in 1803 as a member of the Bengal Civil Service. He joined the College of Fort William, at a time when that institution was in full vigour as a school of Oriental literature; and having great natural talent for the acquisition of languages, he took full advantage of the facilities for those studies which it then afforded in an eminent degree. He distinguished himself by his proficiency in Persian, Arabic, and Urdu; at the same

time obtaining collegiate honours by his knowledge of the laws and regulations of the local Government, and by the composition of an essay on the English language.

On leaving college he joined the judicial branch of the service, and was for some time attached to the District Court of Rajeshye. Thence he proceeded to Amboyna, as First Assistant to the Resident, W. B. Martin, Esq., of the Bengal Civil Service, holding, under that gentleman, the government of one of the subordinate islands, in which he exercised the mixed political and judicial authority of Lieutenant-Governor.

Returning to Bengal in 1816, he was appointed Judge and Magistrate of his old district of Rajeshye; and after holding that office for about three years, having early become marked as an able administrator, he was selected for the important situation of Superintendent of Police in the provinces of Bengal, Behar, and Orissa, and was subsequently transferred, in a like capacity, to the conquered and ceded provinces. This post he continued to occupy for nearly ten years, being at the same time more than once charged with temporary commissions, involving duties of more than ordinary trust and responsibility.

After a short service in the Revenue Department as Commissioner for Delhi, he was restored to the judicial line by an appointment to the high office of Judge of the Sudder-Dewanee and Nizamut-Adawlut of the Upper Provinces. This situation he held till his resignation of the Company's service in 1839-40, when he returned to England after an unbroken career of public duty of more than thirty-five years. He died at his residence in Portland Place, London, after a short illness, on the 5th of January 1863, at the age of seventy-eight.

Mr. Ewer's talents were of a high order. Possessing great quickness in the acquisition of knowledge, and equal clearness in the application of it, he occupied a foremost rank among the public servants of the Government; and his ready intercourse with the inhabitants, while affording him an accurate knowledge of the thoughts and feelings of those over whom he was placed, secured for him at the same time that popularity and influence among them which have never been withheld from any English functionary of high rank in whom our Indian fellow-subjects have recognised a genuine sympathy and interest in their welfare.

His reading was extensive, and his scientific acquirements were surprisingly great, considering the comparatively little leisure he could command from his official labours, and the necessarily itinerant life which those labours involved. Music, or astronomical observations, formed his favourite source of relaxation. In all his wanderings he carried with him his piano, and, with other mathematical instruments, a powerful

telescope. This last, indeed, he applied to an unusual purpose, of which the mention may be not without interest to this Society, viz.: when he visited Delhi in 1822, that singular structure, the Cootub Minar, was in such a state of disrepair as to prevent any access to the inscriptions which surround its several galleries.* These Mr. Ewer was able to read with the assistance of his telescope of great magnifying power, and the result of his observations was communicated to the Asiatic Society of Bengal in a paper which is published in the fourteenth volume of its Transactions—a notice which doubtless influenced the Government in the adoption of measures subsequently taken for the preservation of that and other interesting remains in the vicinity. He also sent memoranda of the latitude and longitude of various places, determined by himself, to Arrowsmith, and to the Royal Geographical Society, for the correction of the then very imperfect maps of Upper India.

It is to be regretted that so accomplished a scholar as Mr. Ewer did not, after his return from India, show a more sustained devotion to the cause of literature; and it is especially to be lamented that he caused to be destroyed a valuable series of notes, in which he had recorded the results of much varied and extensive observation, and of which the value was estimated very highly by competent judges to whom the manuscript was communicated. They appear to have contained much which, without any elaborate preparation, would have afforded materials for very interesting communications to this and other Societies. Some time before his death Mr. Ewer presented his astronomical instruments to the Royal Geographical Society, of which he was a member, having also the distinction of being a Fellow of the Royal Society.

This is not the place for entering on any details of private life. It may suffice to state that no man could be more generally loved than Mr. Ewer, while his social and conversational talents amply sustained his high character as a public functionary, and strongly impressed those who were brought most intimately into association with him, with a cordial admiration of his genius, but also with a deep regret that a certain indolence of disposition should prevent the full development of his natural gifts. He was, indeed, a delightful companion, ever ready to impart his knowledge to those who sought it, and, while generally calm and undemonstrative in his demeanour, was ever a most genial and much valued member of the circle in which he moved.

COLONEL CHARLES THORESBY went first to India in the

* For a full account of the inscriptions at Delhi, with their latest readings, see Thomas's edition of Prinsep's works, vol. i, p. 326.

year 1809, to join the Bengal Native Infantry. After passing his examination in the Hindustani language, he was attached to the 34th regiment in that force, and in 1810 went as a volunteer to the Mauritius. On his return he joined his regiment for a short period. Having leisure, then, to study, he acquired considerable proficiency in several of the Indian languages, ancient and modern, and was appointed to be one of the Secretaries of the Hindu College at Benares, where he continued about ten years. After this, Lord William Bentinck, then Governor-General, judging that the services of this officer would be useful in the Civil Department, employed him, in 1835, as his Political Agent in settling the new State of Shekawattee. He there managed affairs so judiciously, and established such order in the district, that he was soon afterwards appointed to be Resident at Jypoor, and lastly to the still more important post of Resident at Nepaul at the time when the Sikh war broke out in 1848, and when there was so much dread of a general insurrection of the Native Powers. Having remained there three years, and been above forty years in India without a furlough to his native country, he resigned the service and returned to England in 1850, residing for the last ten years at Torquay, where his benevolence and liberality acquired for him the esteem and affection of a large circle of friends and of the inhabitants in general.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL WILLIAM CULLEN, late of the Madras Artillery, went to India in 1804, and served in the field at Candesh and Berar with the Hyderabad subsidiary force in 1805-6, commanding a brigade of artillery at the surprise of a large Mahratta force in the former year. He was present at the capture of St. Denis, in the Isle of Bourbon, in 1810, and also with the force employed against Kurnoal in 1815. He attained the rank of Colonel in 1842, and that of Lieutenant-General in November, 1851. Meanwhile, on the decease of Colonel Maclean, General Cullen had been appointed Resident of Travancore and Cochin in September, 1840, retiring from that post in January, 1860. After his retirement, he continued to reside at Travancore; but was on his way to the Neilgherries for the benefit of his health, when he was attacked at Quilon with fever and ague, and expired at Allepey on the 1st of October, 1862, at the age of about seventy-six.

REPORT OF THE ORIENTAL TRANSLATION FUND COMMITTEE.

The translation of Ibu Khallikan by Monsieur le Baron de Slane, of which two volumes and the first part of a third have been published, has been suspended since 1845. It was

resumed at the request of the Committee last year, and the learned translator has made considerable and satisfactory progress in bringing the work to a conclusion. The second part of the third volume, and one additional volume will most probably complete the whole. It is proposed not to commence printing until the entire manuscript is nearly ready.

It is hoped that a small volume of miscellaneous translations may also be published this year. The expense of these publications will exhaust the resources of the fund at present available.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE.

It was stated in the last Report that the Council had determined to revive the Committee of Agriculture and Commerce, with the view of collecting, digesting, and diffusing, information regarding the productive resources of the East, and of India in particular. The Committee reported last year that four papers had been brought forward at their meetings. They have now to state that since the issue of the last Report, nine papers have been read and discussed at the meetings which have been successively held, on the following subjects:—

1. On the Production of Cotton in Bengal, by the Secretary.
2. On the Cultivation of Cotton at the Madras Presidency, by the Secretary.
3. On the Soil, Climate, and Productive Resources of East Berar, by Captain Meadows Taylor.
4. On the Supply of Cotton from the East Indies, by Mr. Fincham.
5. On Indian Railways, by the Secretary.
6. On the Prospects of the Supply of Cotton from India in the present year, by Mr. Fincham.
7. On the Progress of Cotton Cultivation in the district of Dharwar, by the Secretary.
8. On the Cultivation of Flax in the Punjab, by the Secretary.
9. On the Resources and Prospects of the Central Provinces, by the Secretary.

The Committee have to state that of the sum of £100 placed at their disposal by the Council, there still remains in hand at the present time, £15 18s. 3d.

They regret to observe that there has not been that interest manifested in the revival of these discussions, which they had expected to find at a time when the material improvement of the various dependencies of England, and the development of their resources had become an object of national

importance. Their meetings have been feebly attended, and the compilation of papers has devolved almost exclusively on their Secretary. In these circumstances they cannot venture to solicit the Council to renew the grant. But they would propose that the organisation of the Committee be maintained, in order that meetings may be convened whenever papers of sufficient interest, and falling within the scope of the Committee's labours, have been presented, or whenever it may be deemed advisable to collect information with a view to the discussion of any question of general importance and interest.

AUDITORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1862.

The Auditors beg to report, that they have carefully examined the accounts of the Society for the year 1862, and have found them correct.

The balance on hand, 31st December, 1861, was £	323	5	4
Outstanding liabilities	230	18	5
Leaving a balance applicable to 1862	92	6	11
The receipts in 1862, were	881	2	6
Total Credit	973	9	5
Expenses of the year 1862	705	17	6½
In hand, 31st December, 1862	267	11	10½
Outstanding liabilities	188	14	10
Leaving a net balance applicable to 1863 ..	78	17	0½

Your Auditors desire to draw the attention of the Society to the evident deduction from the above statement, that the present income is barely sufficient to meet the requirements of the Society, and to impress upon the minds of its Members the continued necessity for strenuous efforts in its favour.

FRED. FINCHAM,
E. C. RAVENSHAW,
THOS. OGILVY, } *Auditor for the Council.*
} *Auditors for the Society.*

The reading of the Reports being concluded, Sir H. RAWLINSON rose and addressed the meeting as follows:

Gentlemen.—In the absence of our zealous and accomplished President, it becomes my duty to make a few observations to you on the subject of the Annual Report, which has

been read to you by our Secretary. If we were to estimate our position solely by the number of our subscribing members, then, no doubt, I should have to address you, on the present occasion, in tones of apprehension, if not of despondency; for, as you will have observed, the secessions from our ranks during the past year far out-number the additions. But our pecuniary condition, although a very important item in our welfare as a Society, is not the only—nor, indeed, the most essential—matter that we have to consider. So long as we can pay our way—and I see no reason at present for doubting that we can do so—we may go on steadily in our path, working out unostentatiously, but still with earnestness and success, those great objects for which the Society was constituted; and we may even increase in reputation and in usefulness, though shorn of our numerical strength. The main object, indeed, to which I think our attention should be directed is the position that we hold as a body of Orientalists, in relation to the other great Oriental bodies of Europe, Asia, and America; and this position depends, as I need hardly remind you, on the character of the papers that we publish to the world. Here, then, there is certainly no falling off. The papers which have appeared in the two first parts of our Journal, published since the last Anniversary Meeting, are in every respect worthy of the Society. Two, indeed, of these papers, that by Mr. Thomas on Bactrian Coins, and that by Mr. Dowson on the Bactrian Pali Inscriptions, are, perhaps, the most important contributions that have been ever made to this particular branch of Eastern archaeology; and I believe that the forthcoming double number of the Journal will contain articles that will still further raise the reputation of our Society, both at home and abroad. The papers, also, that have been collected by our Committee of Agriculture and Commerce, and for which we are mainly indebted to the indefatigable Secretary of that Committee, Mr. J. C. Marshman, are of the utmost value in placing before the world, in a condensed form, extensive and varied information with regard to the productive resources of India.

It is a rule in many Societies that the President should, at the Anniversary Meeting, report on the progress during the past year, of that branch of science for which the Society is specially instituted; and it is to be hoped that hereafter, in our own Society, so very excellent a plan may be adopted and persevered in. I am not myself prepared to enter at present upon such a review of Oriental science. I can merely indicate, in the briefest manner, a few recent or forthcoming works on which the Orientalists of this country may be congratulated. Firstly, then, Professor Goldstücker has published another part of his Sanskrit Dictionary, which is, in every

respect, worthy of his high reputation. This dictionary, indeed, is a vast improvement on that published by the late Professor Wilson, and, when completed, will be the standard authority in this branch of Eastern learning. Secondly, the opening volume has at last been printed of Mr. Lane's great Arabic Dictionary, on which that indefatigable scholar has been employed for the last twenty years. The remaining volumes will now follow in rapid succession, all the materials being already prepared for the press, and I think we may safely predict that this great work, which thoroughly exhausts the subject, and which is at once critical and practical, will, in a short time, supersede all the other Arabic lexicons now in use. Thirdly, the British Museum is about to publish two volumes of great interest for Oriental students; one being a collection of Phœnician Inscriptions from Carthage, edited and translated by Mr. Vaux, and the other a series of Himyaric Inscriptions, which have been copied from copper plates brought to this country from Southern Arabia by General Coghlau, and which are being edited and translated by Mr. Franks.

But if I thus confine myself to the briefest notice in alluding to works of general interest to Orientalists, I can describe, in somewhat more detail, the progress of research and discovery in that particular branch of enquiry, which forms the subject of my own studies, and which has been so much discussed in the pages of our Journal: I mean, of course, the Cuneiform Inscriptions.

During the past year, I have been principally occupied in examining and preparing for publication a selection from among the many thousand fragments of clay tablets from Nineveh which are preserved in the British Museum; and some very important discoveries, both ethnological and historical, have resulted from this examination. It seems to be now pretty clearly ascertained that the primitive population which occupied the valley of the Tigris and Euphrates was of the Semitic family, and that this population was partially displaced in Babylonia, about 2500 b.c., by Turanian tribes from the Persian mountains. These Turanian colonists, moreover, appear to have brought in with them the use of letters, and they may be thus supposed to represent the Zoroastrian Medes, who, according to Berossus, furnished the first historical dynasty to Babylonia, and who are further generally described by the Greek traditionists as having contended with Ninus (the Eponyme of the Semitic race), and as having introduced the arts of magic (*i. e.*, of writing) into Western Asia. There were probably many successive immigrations of mountaineers into Babylonia and Elymais, and many different languages seem to have prevailed amongst the colo-

nists; each tribe, indeed, having its own dialect and independent vocabulary, although all belonging to one great ethnic family; and it is further curious to observe the large proportion of Aryan roots and Aryan nouns which these Turanian inscriptions exhibit, as if the two races had been completely intermixed in their primitive seats in Central or Eastern Persia.

We also find, that there was an independent Semitic empire in Assyria, in the very earliest times, co-existent with a Turanian empire in Babylonia, and we are thus led to suspect, that the chronology of Berossus, and the chronology of Ctesias, which have been hitherto supposed to be absolutely incompatible, may be partially reconciled with each other as applying to two different countries. It may further be noted, that there is no indication of a change of dynasty in Assyria, from the first institution of the empire, down to the destruction of Nineveh, in about b.c. 625; whereas in Babylonia several successive races seem to have risen to power, the Turanians being finally expelled from the sovereignty in the twelfth or thirteenth century b.c. A Turanian dialect however, continued to be the prevailing language in Babylonia, down to the age of Nebuchadnezzar, or even later.

The most important historical result which has followed from the examination of the Museum tablets, has been the discovery of what is called the Nineveh Canon; that is, a catalogue of the archons, or Eponymes, who gave their names to the Assyrian year, extending over a period of about two centuries and a half, or from b.c. 900 to b.c. 650. Unfortunately although there are fragments of four independent copies of this canon, a complete list cannot be made out. The beginning is wanting in all, and the several lists close at different periods of history. As the durations, however, of the reigns of the Assyrian kings are duly marked in the Canon, we are able to define the dates of the contemporary kings of Judah and Israel, relatively to each other, and some very important rectifications are thus obtained of the received Scripture Chronology. The several copies of the Canon have been lithographed, in fac-simile, and will be published with ample illustrations in an early number of the Society's Journal.

The only other subject to which it is necessary to refer, is the discovery of a certain number of bilingual legends in Assyrian and Phœnician. In the present advanced stage of Cuneiform decipherment, a bilingual key can hardly be of any real use, as far as regards the identification of the phonetic value of the different signs. It may serve, however, to supply an answer to those sceptics of the school of the late Sir George Lewis, who require the direct testimony of a known language and character, before they can believe in the

possibility of reading an unknown character, and resuscitating an unknown language; and this purpose the bilingual legends, limited as they are in extent, may be said to have actually achieved; for any one may now compare an Assyrian name, as written in Phoenician, with its correspondent in Cuneiform, and thus satisfy himself that the phonetic powers which have been given to the Cuneiform signs are correct. The history of the discovery is simply as follows:—I had occasion to examine with care the whole collection in the British Museum of small bulging tablets (which are for the most part legal documents, deeds of sale, &c., &c.) for the purpose of verifying the names of the Eponymes, which furnished the dates; and in the course of this examination, I found that in several cases there were a few words or lines of Phoenician writing scratched on the edge of the tablet. A further scrutiny satisfied me that the Phoenician legend was a mere docket or endorsement,—stating the general purport of the Cuneiform text,—which had been scratched, for the convenience of reference, on the tablet by the librarian, or keeper of the records, who was probably a native of Phoenicia. Having copied all the fragments I could find, I was thus able to exhibit some ten or twelve names and words written both in Phoenician and Cuneiform. The key, if it can be so called, has not furnished me with a single new reading, and I cannot, therefore, consider it of any real value; but still, as a mere matter of curiosity, I propose to publish the bilingual readings before long in the Society's Journal.

Before concluding this brief review of Cuneiform progress during the past year, it is only proper that I should draw attention to the labours of Messieurs Oppert and Ménant, in France, and of Dr. Hincks and Mr. Fox Talbot, in this country. Although I am not prepared to accept all the results which they have put forward, and although I think, as a general rule, that the work of translation should be pursued with more caution and reserve than they have usually displayed, still I am bound to admit, that the papers which have severally appeared in the *Journal Asiatique* and the *Annales de Philosophie Chrétienne*, in France, and in the *Journal of the Royal Society of Literature*, in our own *Journal*, and more recently in *The Atlantis*, in England, have greatly advanced our acquaintance with the Assyrian language; and I regret extremely, that owing to the slow process of lithography, and the difficulty of obtaining correct impressions of the minute and half-obliterated writing on the Museum clay tablets, I have not been able before this to place at the disposal of my fellow-labourers the second volume of the *Cuneiform Inscriptions of Western Asia*, which, containing as it does, nearly 300 explanatory lists and vocabularies, would have so greatly

facilitated their studies, and improved the accuracy of their results. The volume in question is, however, now nearly completed, and will certainly be published during the ensuing autumn.

In conclusion I would only reiterate the appeal which was made last year by our accomplished President to all those interested in the cultivation of Eastern science, that they should rally round this Society, and by their united efforts place it in the proud position which it formerly occupied, as the Oriental mouth-piece of England. The India Board has given proof of the interest which it feels in our proceedings, and the confidence which it reposes in us, by continuing to the Society the full yearly grant of two hundred guineas. Let us show that we appreciate this support, and are not unworthy of it.

When SIR HENRY had concluded his remarks, GENERAL BRIGGS rose and proposed:

"That the Report of the Council, with those of the Committees and of the Auditors, be adopted for circulation, and that the thanks of the Society be offered to the Auditors for the trouble they have taken in verifying the correctness of last year's accounts."

In rising to propose this motion, GENERAL BRIGGS said: He congratulated the Society on its satisfactory condition as regarded its funds, so much improved in the last few years. He considered the Auditors entitled to our thanks for the voluntary labour they had bestowed in examining and testifying to the correctness of our accounts. He could not, however, sit down without expressing his admiration of the extremely interesting account which the gallant Chairman, our Director, had given of the progress made in the examination of the rich stores in the arrow-headed character which had been brought to light by modern research. He had heard this day various details of the existence in ancient times, among a people of whom our knowledge was still very small, of a methodical frame of society of which we had hitherto had but the most confused accounts. The discovery of the several elements of a very complicated social system had been mentioned to us with a clearness most admirable, and with proofs incontestable, which in bygone days could not have been hoped for. The gallant gentleman concluded by congratulating the Society on the eloquent discourse to which they had just listened with so much attention and pleasure.

CAPTAIN W. J. EASTWICK having seconded the motion,

it was unanimously adopted; and F. FINCHAM briefly returned thanks for the Auditors.

SIR HENRY RAWLINSON then proposed:

"That the thanks of the Society be conveyed to the President, Lord Strangford, for the sustained interest he has shown in every question connected with the welfare and influence of the Society."

The motion was seconded by M. P. EDGEWORTH, Esq., and adopted unanimously; when the RIGHT HON. HOLT MACKENZIE rising, moved:

"That the thanks of the meeting be offered to the Director for his valuable co-operation in conducting the affairs of the Society, and for his kindness in presiding on the present occasion."

In proposing this resolution, MR. MACKENZIE said: He believed that he need say very little in support of his proposal. Every member of the Society being, he imagined, fully acquainted with the eminent position held by Sir H. Rawlinson as an Orientalist, and with the works by which he had given lustre to the Transactions of the Society. They could not forget that in taking the office of their Director, Sir Henry succeeded one who stood, not only among themselves, but by every European reputation, in the very foremost rank of Oriental scholars—Horace Hayman Wilson, the worthy successor of their first Director, the illustrious Colebrooke—and it was no small praise to assert that he had worthily supplied the place of those eminent men. But without presuming to do more than to echo the general sentiment on that point, he ought, as a Member of the Council, to bear testimony to the constant zeal with which their Director exerted himself to promote the prosperity and reputation of the Society, and to the efficiency with which he influenced and guided the proceedings of their Council. He need not say one word as to the obligation due to Sir Henry Rawlinson for the manner in which he had presided at that meeting. They themselves would duly estimate the interesting address with which he had favoured them; and though they had never probably shared the doubts which an ill-informed criticism endeavoured to cast on the results of those researches that had given an historical value to the Cuneiform inscriptions, and shed light on so large a field of ancient story, previously involved in darkness, they could not be but gratified to learn that their Director was now able to satisfy the most incredulous, by a proof scarcely less satisfactory than if he had been able to appeal to a bilingual inscription of the monuments he had deciphered.

Before resuming his seat he wished to express his full concurrence in the sentiment that there was no reason to despair of the future of their Society ; while there appeared to him many grounds on which more than ever the necessity of such an Institution was established, and on which its Members might justly be urged to exert themselves to give increased life and vigour to its proceedings, by papers and discussions calculated to make Oriental subjects, and especially questions relating to the great Hindu and Moslim nations who were their fellow-subjects of the British Crown, better known in this country than they now are. They could not but perceive that many influential classes and persons otherwise distinguished by extensive knowledge, did constantly exhibit a marvellous want of accurate information in regard to the East, and to the circumstances even of those whose destiny depended largely, for good or evil, on the acts of the British Government. A curious illustration of this he met with a short time ago, in an ingenious work published by an eminent statesman, recently lost to this country (a man he believed equally and deservedly loved by his friends, and lamented by the community, and who would generally be recognised as one of the most learned and best informed of our public men)—he meant the dialogue on the best form of government, by the late Sir G. C. Lewis. For in it he found it gravely stated that the Orientals were scarcely, if at all, less inferior in intellect to the Europeans than they were superior to the Negro ; and that of their literature there was nothing worthy of the regard of scholars, excepting (what do you think) the Arabian Nights' Entertainments. In the same work their moral condition is spoken of as so utterly degraded (and the sentiment applied apparently to the whole of the vast region from the western extremity of Arabia to the eastern limits of China), as to make it hopeless to think of their co-operation towards self-government. So also in a recent number of the *Edinburgh Review*, there is an able article attributed to a nobleman high in office, and at all events important from the place where it is to be found, in which all private property in the land in India, unless directly bestowed by the Government, is apparently denied, and the right of Government to deal with it according to their pleasure seems to be asserted or inferred. Need be in this Society state the momentous consequences which are likely to follow from the practical application of such opinions, such principles,—or how likely legislation, however well intentioned, touching the dearest interests of the people (they all knew how that people clung to their native villages and paternal fields),—was to produce a widespread discontent, and not improbably to lead to results even more disastrous than that deplorable mutiny

which shattered the long-tried fidelity of our native army. And although it might appear that there is already an abundant supply of works demonstrating the fallacy of those opinions (on the question of land tenure, it might be sufficient to refer to the works of our esteemed colleague, General Briggs), yet he was satisfied that the members of this Society, especially those fresh from India, may perform a very valuable service to their country, and highly enhance the reputation and usefulness of the Society, by the frequent communication of papers calculated, not only to illustrate the ancient literature and antiquities of the East, but to present to those who read our Journal or attend our meetings, a lively picture of its present condition and of the changes which, often unperceived or unheeded by the Government, the circumstances, opinions, and feelings of the people, more especially of their leading classes, are slowly but surely undergoing. He had always thought that details of the circumstances of single villages, collected on the spot or gathered from the lips of the inhabitants, might be made eminently interesting and instructive; and he would venture to suggest that by a simple record of such observations, the result of enquiries in single villages, situate in different districts, and occupied by different races or castes, the members of the Society, especially non-resident members still abroad, might greatly enrich our transactions, and contribute to them matter not only of high interest to the curious inquirer, but of essential value to the legislator and the statesman.

SIR FREDERICK HALLIDAY, K.C.B., having seconded the motion, it was duly carried, and SIR HENRY RAWLINSON returned thanks to the meeting as follows:—

It is no easy task to fill with credit the office of Director, lately held by one so able as the lamented Professor Wilson. I can only assure the meeting that I am animated with an equal interest in the cause, and will do my best to fulfil the duties of the office. I thank Mr. Mackenzie for the flattering terms in which that gentleman has spoken of me, and I echo most sincerely that which has fallen from him in respect to the impolicy, as well as the injustice, of infringing the rights of our Indian fellow-subjects, by interfering with their tenure of the land. The Government would, however, from the tenor of the recent debate on the subject, appear to be aware of the danger of such an interference, and I trust, therefore, that the fears expressed by Mr. Mackenzie, are never likely to be fulfilled.

It was then proposed by E. C. RAVENSHAW, Esq., seconded by T. OGILVY, Esq., and unanimously adopted:

"That the thanks of the meeting be given to the Vice-Presidents and Council for their efficient services in managing the business of the Society."

The RIGHT HON. H. MACKENZIE acknowledged the vote for the Vice-Presidents and Council, and it was then proposed by SIR CHARLES NICHOLSON, BART. :

"That the thanks of the Society be tendered to the Committee of Agriculture and Commerce, and especially to its Honorary Secretary, J. C. Marshman, Esq., for the valuable papers communicated during the past year."

In moving this resolution SIR C. NICHOLSON stated as follows :—

It had been appropriately observed by their Chairman, Sir H. Rawlinson, that the objects of the Royal Asiatic Society were twofold—practical as well as scientific. He (Sir C. Nicholson) believed that few objects, at the present moment, could be regarded as of greater importance as affecting our national welfare than those relating to the capabilities of India in the production of cotton. He had, within the last fifteen months, had an opportunity of visiting those Presidencies ; and, although his journey was rapid, and his opportunities of observation limited, he had, nevertheless, arrived at certain convictions respecting our great Indian Empire, which, but for such brief personal experience, he should never have otherwise acquired. He might say, generally, that two conclusions had been forced upon his mind. One was the difficulty, if not impossibility, of any one being able properly to appreciate India, or to deal with its vast and complicated interests, who had never been in the country. The other was as to the vast, and he would say unlimited, capabilities of India for the production of the great staple article upon the supply of which the prosperity of the manufacturing population of England so largely depended. He was satisfied that it only required time, and the increased facilities of transport which were now being so continually carried out by means of railways and water communication, to enable our Indian possessions to meet all the demands of our manufacturing industry. It was not in cotton alone, but in sugar, tea, coffee, and all the varied vegetable productions of the tropics, that India had unbounded (though, at the present moment, to a great extent untried) capabilities. It was most desirable that enquiries such as those instituted by the Royal Asiatic Society should be prosecuted. He might add that much interest would be felt in investigations such as these here referred to, in other parts of the British Empire. The northern portions

of Australia bore many points of resemblance to India in climate and soil, and good efforts were being made in that direction towards the cultivation of the cotton plant. The reports which had emanated from the Committee of this Society would be highly prized by the colonists of Queensland, and would, he doubted not, be found most useful in the hints and directions they afforded. Before concluding the few brief remarks he had to offer, he would just allude briefly to another topic. Much credit had properly been accorded to the government of India for its desire to preserve the ancient monuments of that country. On a recent occasion, however, when at Delhi, he had noticed with regret that one of the great Asoka pillars or *lats*, on the north side of the city, and near the line of entrenchments occupied by our troops during the late mutiny, was lying prostrate on the ground, broken into two or three fragments, and in a position where it was constantly liable to abrasion by carts and carriages passing in its neighbourhood. He suggested whether some attempt should not be made either for its re-erection, or, at all events, for enclosing it within a fence, so as to protect it from further injury.

The motion having been seconded by EDWARD NORRIS, Esq., was adopted *nem. con.*, and Mr. FINCHAM, in returning thanks for the Committee of Agriculture and Commerce, expressed how much he regretted the absence of the Honorary Secretary, Mr. Marshman, to whom they were almost entirely indebted for the valuable communications which had been mentioned in the Report. The revival of the Committee, after being twenty years in abeyance, appeared to him expedient under the trying circumstances in which the great cotton interest was placed by the failure of the supply of the raw material, and in the hope of aiding, in some degree, the efforts of Government to meet the exigency. He regretted that the attendance of Members had not been so numerous as had been anticipated.

It was finally proposed by GENERAL BRIGGS, and seconded by J. W. BOSANQUET, Esq.:

"That the thanks of the meeting be given to the Secretary, to the Honorary Secretary and Librarian, and to the Treasurer, for their respective services since the last anniversary."

In proposing this motion, GENERAL BRIGGS observed in a few words that the duties undertaken and so efficiently performed by the several Officers of the Society included in its terms, merited their cordial thanks, and he had little doubt that they would be given unanimously.

E. NORRIS, Esq., Honorary Secretary and Librarian, having replied in the name of the Officers, Captain Eastwick and Mr. Edgeworth were solicited to undertake the duties of Scrutineers; and the Ballot being had recourse to for the Election of Officers and six new Members of Council, the following result was declared by the Director, who further congratulated the Society on having secured the support of General Briggs, as one of the Vice-Presidents, and paid a well-merited tribute to his long and able service in the cause of Oriental Literature.

Director—Major-Gen. Sir H. C. Rawlinson, K.C.B., D.C.L., F.R.S.

Treasurer—Edward Thomas, Esq.

Secretary—James Wm. Redhouse, Esq.

Honorary Secretary and Librarian—Edwin Norris, Esq.

Council—Thomas Bazley, Esq., M.P.; J. W. Bosanquet, Esq.; John Dickinson, Esq.; Mountstuart Elphinstone Grant Duff, Esq., M.P.; M. P. Edgeworth, Esq.; James Fergusson, Esq.; Frederick Fincham, Esq.; Professor T. Goldstücker; Sir Frederick Halliday; John C. Marshman, Esq.; Edward Stanley Poole, Esq.; Patrick Boyle Smollett, Esq., M.P.; Col. W. H. Sykes, M.P., F.R.S.; Dr. Forbes Watson; Major-Gen. Sir A. S. Waugh, C.B.

At the conclusion of Sir H. Rawlinson's eulogium, GENERAL BRIGGS again rose and said, that he had great pleasure in offering his thanks to the meeting for the honour conferred on him by his election, and especially to the gallant Chairman for his encomiums, and to the Right Hon. Holt Mackenzie, who had also in his speech adverted to the services of the gallant General as a Member of the Society, and particularly to his labours in illustrating the nature of landed tenures in India.

After which, the gallant General continued :

"I believe I am one of the oldest surviving Members of this Society. It is true I have occasionally served on its Council, and have from time to time contributed to its Transactions; but it cannot be expected at my time of life that I should be able to do much more for it, and I consider the honour of a Vice-Presidency now conferred, a sort of decoration, a kind of K.C.B.-ship, for services performed during a very long career.

"It is more than sixty-two years since I first sailed for India, and I have continued in the public service till the present time. Thirty-three years of that period have been

spent in India and in Persia in active employ. It has been my pleasure as well as my duty to study the languages and the institutions of the people among whom I was placed, and occasionally to publish, through this Society and other channels, the results of my investigations. As my Right Hon. friend has especially adverted to my labours on the subject of the landed tenures of India, I may at such a time as the present offer an opinion in support of what he has so clearly stated to-day on the indefeasible right of certain classes of our native subjects to the lands they occupy, or which are included within the recognised limits of any township. With respect to the Madras Presidency, to which I belong, I am prepared to show that, with the exception of the land on which Fort St. George stands, partly purchased, and partly conquered from the Portuguese, the Government neither had nor has a right to any spot of land as large as that on which this house stands unless it has been regularly bought. In illustration of which, I may advert to an instance wherein one of the Judges of the Small Court in Madras was compelled very lately to pay for a spot of land on the sea-shore which he desired to enclose, and on which he wished to pitch his tents, before he could do so. The purchase was concluded with the tenant for £10; but the superior landlord afterwards disputed the validity of the sale, and the Judge had to pay £5 in addition, to render the sale valid. This anecdote I had from the Judge himself, whom I am in the habit of seeing every day.

The gallant General said he might say much more on this subject, but he would not detain the meeting any longer, beyond repeating his sense of the honour conferred on him, the duties attendant upon which, as far as his health and other circumstances permitted, he would endeavour to fulfil."

SIR HENRY RAWLINSON then declared the meeting adjourned to Monday, the 1st of June.

ABSTRACT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR 1862.

We, the undersigned, have audited these accounts, and are satisfied with their correctness,

amount of Society's Fund, Three
tercent, Canada \$1,000 0 0